

John Stokely to Andrew Jackson, February 13, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

Washington City, February 13, 1815.

Sir, I arriv'd at Richmond (from my residence) on the 9th of Octr. last. was engaged at that City in Business until the 21st of Jany., and I assure you that Great anxieties existed in these parts for your success. Hopes and fears prevailed alternately amongst the Patriotic Citizens of the East here, for the safety of New Orleans, until the 4th of Feby. now Inst., when the Glad Tidings of your encounter of the 8th of Jany. arrived. on the News of your victory the Eyes of Every real american sparkled with emotions of Joy; still derogatory at it may be to this vicinity, I must say, that in many faces I tho't I saw impressions of sorrow. This in a small degree, accounts for the success of the enemy here in august last; but that misfortune cannot be charged to a Lack of Patriotism only (as I believe) a lack of Vigilance, and of Bravery too, combined with disafection, and produced that Evil. I do therefore the more exult at your success, as it afoards the strongest evidence, that this Eastern, and Polished Country, does not possess all of the wisdom and Gallantry belonging to the U. S.

It was only Two or Three days, before the news of Your Victory Below Orleans, arrived to this place, I Told the secretary of war, that "Possibly you might be defeated, by the Balls and Bayonetts of a superior number (but not by Guines, Dollars, or a Dastardly surrender)." Permit me to congratulate you Sir, on the Immortal Honor which you have *Honistly* and *Gallantly* won; to assure you that your activity and uniform success, has (as I believe) rendered you, justly, very Popular amongst the american People; and I do conceive that you ought to fill the Chair of the Chief magistrate of this Union in march 1817: for surely the greater the Demand, and the scerser that any commodity is, the

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High[er] the Price; and Every Body knows that according to this maxem, Bravery ought to rate high about this matropolis.

I for one do think that our Executive has no energy. I conceive, we are entitled to a President from the west, and I am the more anxious for this, because, I believe, our late Presidents in the East here, have paid too much Court, to the Federal Faction. Like good Christians when smitten on one Cheek they, Passively Turn the other also. I should be glad to hear from you Sir, at all times. I still reside in Wood County, Virginia. shall set out today, for that place. Please Present My most friendly wishes to Capt. and Mrs. Caffery, cousins Eliz and Polley. I hear they reside at Natchez—(and when you git home) please present my best wishes to Mrs. Jackson, and the Donelsons Generally, and accept them yourself.

P. S. The news of Peace has ariv'd. I congratulate you Sir, on this happy event: for all is Confusion here; and altho the western People have acted as good Patriots ought ever to do, I for one do rejoice at this as a fortunate occurance; for Toriesm and an ambition to make money without Industry, and Gain Honor without merit Is entirely to[o] Predominant here to Prosecute this war with good Effect.

14 Febr. 1815.